



<p><b>Theme &amp; Passages</b></p>	<p>The Ethiopian Eunuch <b>Acts 8:26–40</b> <b>Isaiah 53 + 56</b></p>	<p>Notes prepared by Pete Moore and Steve Hall</p>
<p><b>Welcome (10 mins)</b></p>	<p>In Acts 8:26 an angel of the Lord asks Philip to just get up and leave a place where the gospel was making a real impact to go to a road out in the desert without knowing why. Has God ever asked you, or someone you know, to do something that seemed a little crazy at the time?</p>	
<p><b>Worship (20 mins)</b></p>	<p>Take some time to listen and reflect together on Jon Guerra's beautiful and provocative song 'Citizens' via this link <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdqgDclXPpw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdqgDclXPpw</a></p>	
<p><b>Working with God (20 mins):</b> Evangelism Discipleship Compassion Justice Creation Care</p>	<p>This week we are connecting with ABTS, one of our two partners in Lebanon. The Arab Baptist Theological Seminary is a bible college that provides formal education (such as degree courses), encouragement and development for Arabic speaking students / leaders in churches and allied Christian ministries across the Middle East and North Africa. The video message from Loulwa, the partner manager was shown at church on Sunday and can be accessed here: <a href="#">ABTS_BBC_202404a.mp4</a></p> <p>We really love the way ABTS works focussed on teaching in their context and language; BBC have been supporting them for about 8 years now. In the video, Loulwa makes some specific prayer requests namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- pray for their students who are serving the church in Sudan which for the past 12 months has been in a state of civil war and is now facing a humanitarian catastrophe</li> <li>- pray for students and their work in North Africa;</li> <li>- pray for the church in Lebanon, a country which for the past 5 years has been under considerable pressure and presently is at risk of being drawn deeper into the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians.</li> </ul> <p>Perhaps take time in your small group to consider these prayer points especially as we think about these in the context of the Ethiopian Eunuch; give thanks too for the work of ABTS. At church on Sunday, we also reflected on the wider conflicts in the region spanning Syria, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Israel/Gaza and also Ukraine. Take some time in silence and bring these places before God. Discuss what you hear and sense as you pray.</p>	
<p><b>Word (20-25 mins)</b></p>	<p>Pete Moore and Gill Hawkins preached in the morning and the evening respectively from Luke 8:26-40 last Sunday; the story of the Ethiopian Eunuch. Begin by reading both <b>Acts 8:26-40 and Isaiah 56:3-5</b> together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why do you think Luke has included this story about the eunuch in his history of the early church? What does it teach us about God?</li> <li>- In Acts 8:35 it says that Philip told him the good news about Jesus starting with the passage in Isaiah 53. What do you think Philip said?</li> <li>- Under Jewish law/the old covenant the eunuch wouldn't have been allowed to enter the inner courts of the temple (see Deut. 23:1) but the promise of Isaiah 56:3-5 seems to overturn this. How do we make sense of this? Was the Old Covenant just wrong or is something else going on?</li> <li>- We may not all have angels showing up to give us specific commands but how can we be more open to the guidance of the Spirit in our everyday lives?</li> <li>- How do you honestly feel about sharing your faith in Jesus with other people? What might we learn from Philip's approach?</li> </ul>	



Small Group Resources: 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024